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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 002344

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: VISA-WAIVER PROGRAM: PASSPORT-RELATED
REQUIREMENTS FOR VWP TRAVELERS AND PARTICIPATING
COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 125862

1. Per Reftel para 9, Post provides the following information regarding Austrian Lost and Stolen Passport (LASP) reporting procedures. This information concerns current procedures.

2. QUESTION a. Which office(s) at your post receive information on lost and stolen passports? If offices other than the consular section receive this info, how is it (or is it) passed to the consular section? ANSWER: As in the U.S., there is no legal requirement for Austrian citizens to report the loss or theft of personalized, issued, passports, therefore post rarely receives reports of missing personalized passports. We understand that 8050 personalized passports were reported lost or stolen in 2003, but the actual losses could have occurred years earlier. The Austrian Ministry of Interior has not lost any blank passports in some years, so post has no recent experience with the reporting of the loss of blank passports. Austrian authorities tell us all such losses would be reported to INTERPOL. Our MOI contacts would additionally inform the consular section directly, but the DHS/ICE office might also receive the information, in which case the DHS/ICE staff would also enter the data in the lookout system.

3. QUESTION b. From which entity(ies) do you receive this info? If from the government, please specify exactly which part of the government. If there is a distinction between info on blank and issued passports and the country's willingness or mechanism for providing such info, please specify. If you get info from other diplomatic missions or sources, please specify. ANSWER: The consular section would be informed of missing blank passports by the Ministry of Interior, which is in charge of passport issuances. In 2006 all passport issuance will be centralized in Vienna. At this time, however, passports are issued in passport offices located throughout Austria. There is no requirement to report lost or stolen personalized passports, therefore post would not learn about them from the Austrian government. In the last 24 months we have received no information from other diplomatic missions regarding lost or stolen passports.

4. QUESTION c. Currently, how do the governments handle lost-stolen passport data reporting internally? Does the government have a single point of contact on lost or stolen passport issues (or one at two different ministries), and if not, why and how do they handle reporting? ANSWER: Again, there is no recent experience with this issue. We would expect that the Ministry of Interior would inform the Embassy. The ministry would also inform other relevant divisions within the Ministry, such as the gendarmerie.

5. QUESTION d. How do you actually receive lost and stolen passport data (by phone, fax, email, CD, electronic transfer, etc.)? ANSWER: Again, no blank passports have been lost in recent memory, so post has no experience on this.

6. QUESTION e. Which position/suboffice within your section has the responsibility for ensuring that data is put into CLASS or forwarded to VO/I and FPP? How long does it take on average to make CLASS entries or forward the info? If present at your post, does DHS enter lost-stolen passport data into their system? ANSWER: This very small consular section would most likely have NIV staff enter the data with 24 hours. When we receive information on a missing personalized passport the Visa Chief or our EFM assistant has entered the data. DHS/ICE informs us they would enter data if they had passport numbers.

7. QUESTION f. Do you get information on recovered passports, and how do you usually deal with that? ANSWER: We rarely receive any information on recovered foreign passports unless the traveler has reported the

loss to us - in conjunction with a visa application -
but has not yet applied for a new visa.

18. QUESTION g. Anything else we should know about this
issue? ANSWER: Most Austrians - about 80 percent - have
passports. A loss of 8000 personalized passports a year
out of a population of 8 million is rather low, but the
MOI is centralizing passport issuance to enhance the
security of the Austrian passport.

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